(b) if so, whether Union Government are actively considering to set up or upgrade a university in Uttar Pradesh on this level; and

(c) if so, the reasons for discrimination with Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The CIEFL is an existing institution deemed to be university funded by the Central Government through the UGC. Whereas establishment of universities in States is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The question of any discrimination in this regard, therefore, does not arise.

Study material borrowed by IGNOU

3820. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports in print media regarding "IGNOU being under a cloud for borrowing study materials" affecting career of over 3.5 lac BCA and MCA students of IGNOU, who have passed out since 1995 and may now find that their degrees hold no merit;

(b) if so, the reasons for IGNOU not developing its own study material for the students for the last ten years; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take so as to ensure that students do not suffer because of the University's actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) such reports appeared in the print media which contained some factually incorrect information. The University brought the facts to the concerned Editor for issuing a rejoinder to clarify the issue. It has been stated that

the degrees earned by the students in these professional courses since 1995 have merit, at par with other Central Universities.

(b) In ODL system, there are two internationally accepted and practiced methodologies namely (i) providing Self-Instructional Material for all the courses of Programmes with adequate support services and (ii) identify good books and develop wrap-around material. For the BCA and MCA Programmes, IGNOU adopted mixed mode initially. Subsequently, Self-Instructional material were produced in-house in 23 courses for BCA and all the courses of MCA (new version).

(c) The material delivered by the University are of the highest standard and recognized internationally. The students are accepted by the employers, educational institutions and peers. IGNOU course materials have been adopted/adapted by 11 State Open Universities and 20 Distance Education Directorates of Conventional Universities.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

3821. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more such Institutes to boost research in basic science;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the name of the States where these institutes are likely to be set up, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established in Kolkata, West Bengal and Pune, Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) The Government propose to set up the third USER in Punjab. In addition, the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister have recommended setting up of two more IISERs in the country during the next Five Year Plan period.